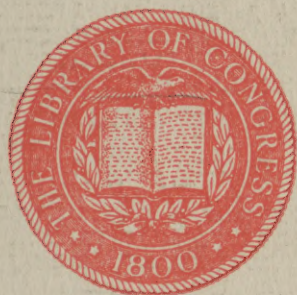
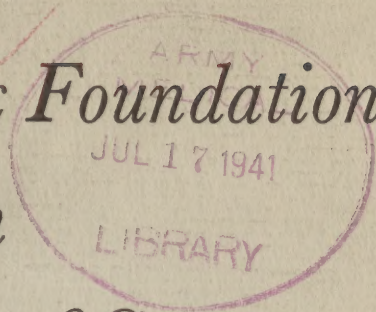


Smith, R. C.

The Hispanic Foundation
in
The Library of Congress



Box 1300

The American Experience

BY

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

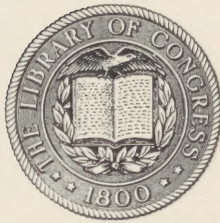


The Hispanic Foundation in The Library of Congress

BY

ROBERT C. SMITH

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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The American Experience

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

Librarian of Congress

THIS is an occasion without precedent in the history of the Library of Congress. But not perhaps for the reason of which you think. It is an occasion without precedent in the history of the Library of Congress because it is the first time in the Library's history when the Librarian has opened a new building or a new division with a speech.

The Library moved across from the Capitol to the building in which we stand to the accompaniment of an eloquent and admired silence. Forty years later it pushed its frontiers across the street to the Annex which can be seen from these windows without a single word. Today it opens its Hispanic Room with a speech by the Librarian.

Unkind critics or unkind friends will suggest that the difference is a difference in librarians—that my predecessor being truly a librarian knew the golden value of that silence to which students in libraries are continually admonished whereas I, being a versifier, suffer from the itch for words which has always characterized my calling. It is a plausible explanation for it contains much truth. There is indeed a difference in Librarians and a difference, I fear, for the worse.

But the real explanation is not this. The real explanation is that the times change as well as the men. There are times when a great institution can let stone and mortar

speak for it. And there are other times when it must attempt to speak, however haltingly, for itself.

This is such a time. Once the value of the things of the spirit could be taken for granted. Once it could be taken for granted anywhere in the civilized world that the free inquiry of the free spirit was essential to the dignified and noble life of man. Once it could be assumed as a matter of course that the work of artists, the work of poets, the work of scholars, was good and should be respected, and would be preserved. Now it is no longer possible to assume these things. Now—and it is still incredible to us that it should be true—now such an act of faith in the life of the human spirit as we perform here today, such an act of respect for the labor of poets and scholars and of love for that which they have made, cannot be taken for granted: cannot be left to speak for itself even in a room as beautiful, as eloquent as this. It is necessary for us to say what it is that we are doing and why it is that we are doing it.

I for one am not proud of this necessity. I am not glad that it is necessary to speak.

What we do is this: we dedicate here a room and a division of the Library of Congress which has been set apart for the preservation and the study and the honor of the literature and scholarship of those other republics which share with ours the word American; and which share with ours also the memories of human hope and human courage which that word evokes—

Remarks on the occasion of the dedication of The Hispanic Room in The Library of Congress, October 12, 1939.

evokes now as never before in the history of our hemisphere.

Why we do it is also obvious. We do it because this literature and this scholarship are worthy in themselves of the closest study and the most meticulous care and the greatest veneration; and because they, more than any other literature and more than any other scholarship, help us in this republic to understand the American past which is common to us all.

We are beginning to perceive, as the peaceful dream of the Nineteenth Century fades away and the economic theories and scientific theories, which were to explain everything, fade away with it—we are beginning to perceive that man never was, and never can be, such a philosophic abstraction as the thinkers of that century supposed—that man is a creature living on this earth and that the earth he lives on qualifies his life. America has shaped and qualified and redirected the lives of men living on her continents for four hundred years. But we who are born in America and live our lives here have not very well understood our relations to these continents, nor our debt to them, nor in what way they have altered us and changed our bodies and our minds.

We have not understood this because we have turned, for the most part, to the literature and the scholarship of Europe for instruction, and for the interpretation of our world. Those of us who were of Latin origin have turned to the literatures of latinized Europe, and those of us who were of English and Celtic and Scandinavian and Teutonic origin to the literatures of northern Europe. We have found there great treasures, great wisdom, high instruction—but only rarely an interpretation of our own lives in terms of the earth we know. Even the American child reading his European poems feels the strangeness: the seasons are wrong, the

springs too early or too slow, the birds and animals different.

It is a curious condition but one which, by long habit, we have come to take as natural. We have looked at America with borrowed European eyes so long that we should hardly recognize the country if we saw it with our own. Doubtless we shall continue for many generations to look at America with these eyes. Our cultural inheritance is European by origin, and like other European legatees of other legacies we can enjoy it only in the original currency. Which means inevitably that we employ that original currency to value our American lives. But though it is inevitable that the great richness of our European past should impose its values upon our American present, it is not inevitable, and it is surely not desirable, that the great richness of our European past should exclude us from the richness of our own.

From the beginning of the sixteenth century there has been accumulating on these continents a body of recorded American experience of the very greatest importance to anyone concerned to understand the American earth and the relation of that earth to the men who live upon it. Because this experience has been recorded in several languages and because it has been deposited in scattered places—places as far apart as Santiago de Chile and Bogotá and Buenos Aires and Mexico City and New Orleans and St. Louis and Quebec—because, furthermore, it has been overlaid with the continuing importation of European literature and European thought—for all these reasons the recorded American experience has not influenced the common life of the Americas as it should have influenced it. It has not been useful to an understanding of the Americas as it should have been useful.

Other men who know these continents

better than I know them—other men who know these records of the American experience better than I shall ever know them—will think of many instances in their own lives when the words of men who lived in the Americas before them have made suddenly clear, and suddenly explicable, matters they had long wished to understand. But even in my shallow knowledge of these things there is one such indebtedness. Some twelve years ago in a Paris library I came upon a copy of Bernal Díaz' *True History of the Conquest of New Spain*. There in that still living, still human, still sharply breathing and believable story of Mexico it seemed to me that I understood for the first time the central American experience—the experience which is American because it can be nothing else—the experience of all those who, of whatever tongue, are truly American—the experience of the journey westward from the sea into the unknown and dangerous country beyond which lies the rich and lovely city for which men hope.

I tried at that time to make a poem of this understanding. The argument of my poem began—

Of that world's conquest and the fortunate wars:
Of the great report and expectation of honor:
How in their youth they stretched sail: how fared
they

Westward under the wind: by wave wandered:
Shoaled ship at the last at the ends of ocean:
How they were marching in the lands beyond:

Of the difficult ways there were and the winter's
snow:

Of the city they found in the good lands: how
they lay in it:
How there was always the leaves and the days
going

Other men will say the same thing in other words and many of them better. Historians will tell us how their study of the documents and monuments of Mexico and Peru opened to their minds the true perspective of American civilization—a civilization of which the first European date is the year 1523 when a school for

Indian boys was opened in Mexico City—of which the first American date lies deep under the limestone waters of Yucatan and the iron earth of Guatemala. Scholars will speak of the year 1539 when the first book to be printed in the Americas was printed in the city of Mexico. Lovers of human liberty will remember the name of Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora who, in the year 1691, at a time when witches were being hung in Salem, successfully defended against the ecclesiastics of Mexico his opinion that the great eclipse of that year was a natural event. They will quote against all witch-burners in all centuries and countries his noble words: "I stood with my quadrant and telescope viewing the [blackened] sun, extremely happy and repeatedly thanking God for having granted that I might behold what so rarely happens in a given place and about which there are so few observations in the books."

No man living in the United States can truly say he knows the Americas unless he has a knowledge of these things—a knowledge of this other American past, this older American past which shares with ours the unforgettable experience of the journey toward the West and the westward hope.

What we are doing in this room, then, is to dedicate to the uses of the citizens of the United States, and to the uses of learners and readers everywhere, these records of the American experience. In this Hispanic Room of the Library, students of the Americas may follow the great Iberian tradition which has populated with its ideas and its poetry by far the greater part of these two continents. Here they may read the rich and various works written in these continents in the Iberian tongues—the two great tongues which, with our own, have become the American language. Here, if our hopes are realized, Americans may some day find the greatest

collection of Hispanic literature and scholarship ever gathered in one place.

There are men in the world today—and many rather than few—who say that the proper study of mankind is not man but a particular kind of man. There are those who teach that the only cultural study proper to a great people is its own culture. There are those also who say that the only real brotherhood is that blood brotherhood for which so many wars have been fought and by which so many deaths are still

justified. The dedication of this room and of this collection of books is a demonstration of the fact that these opinions are not valid in the Americas: that in the Americas, peopled by so many hopes, so many sufferings, so many races, the highest brotherhood is still the brotherhood of the human spirit and the true study is the study of the best.

This is the belief of the people of this Republic expressed by the action of their national Library in the dedication of this room.



COMMEMORATIVE TABLET

The Hispanic Foundation in the Library of Congress

ROBERT C. SMITH

Assistant Director

History

THE HISPANIC FOUNDATION in the Library of Congress is the most recently created center in the United States for the study of Hispanic culture both in the Old and in the New Worlds. The Library of Congress, of which the Foundation is an integral part, is the national library of the United States. Founded in 1800, it was at first located in the Capitol, where it received in 1815 its first important collection, the private library of Thomas Jefferson, two thirds of which was burned in 1851. In 1897, the Library was transferred to the present building, in a special gallery of which the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution were placed on permanent exhibition twenty-seven years later (1924). On April 5, 1939, a new Annex was opened, giving the Library of Congress twice as much book space as any other library in this country.

Its director, the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Herbert Putnam, has just completed 40 years of service and is now retiring to the position of Librarian Emeritus after having increased the collection of books from less than half a million to over five million volumes. His successor is Mr. Archibald MacLeish, one of our most distinguished contemporary poets. During the course of these forty fruitful years, Dr. Putnam has transformed the Library of Congress into an institution "universal in scope, national in service." Today the collections comprise more than 5,500,000

volumes and pamphlets, 1,400,000 maps and views, 1,194,000 pieces and volumes of music, 542,000 prints, 97,000 bound volumes of newspapers, and so many manuscripts that a numerical estimate is not feasible. The Library possesses the largest collection of books on aeronautics in the world, the largest collection of Chinese books outside of China and Japan, and probably the largest collection of Russian books outside of Russia. In the Division of Manuscripts are the papers of nearly all the Presidents and of many statesmen. In the Rare-Book Collection are about 83,000 items; among them are many first editions, rare bindings, some 25,000 early American pamphlets, over 1,500 bound volumes of American eighteenth century newspapers. Of the more than 4,600 fifteenth century books, 3,000—including the St. Blasius-St. Paul copy of the Gutenberg Bible—were purchased by a special act of Congress in 1930.

Not only has material been collected and preserved, but concurrently there has been "a development and diversification of the service." The Library has become increasingly the resort of scholars. The service to Congress has been intensified by the creation of a Legislative Reference Service. The community at large has been benefited by the actual loan of books required for serious uses and not locally available; by publication of "select (topical) lists," of special catalogues and calendars in book form and, in a few cases, of



THE HISPANIC ROOM

Here are seen some of the architectural details that make the room appear to belong to the *Siglo de Oro*. Opening at the side are study rooms, above which are the bookstacks.

actual texts of historical manuscripts in the possession of the Library; by information furnished through correspondence; and by supplying at cost to other libraries, societies, and individuals, printed cards, a byproduct of the Library's cataloguing operations.

Many gifts have been made to the Library because of Dr. Putnam's personal enterprise and because of the growing public recognition of the preeminence of the Library as a national center of learning. An act of Congress, approved March 3, 1925, created "The Library of Congress Trust Fund Board," which authorizes the Board not only to accept endowments but also to receive gifts of money for immediate disbursement.

One of the most interesting accomplishments of Dr. Putnam's administration was the establishment of a series of consultantships held by men who are specialists in various fields. They have served to guide the development of the library within their own disciplines and to assist scholars in the pursuit of their researches, much as the members of a university faculty do. This service is still unique among the libraries of this country. Another outstanding service of the Library of Congress to the public has been the preparation from time to time of special bibliographies in a number of fields, many of which are of particular interest to Hispanic studies.

The Hispanic Foundation owes its origin to the establishment in 1927 of a generous fund for the purchase of new books by Mr. Archer M. Huntington, the founder of the Hispanic Society of America in New York City. In the words of the donor, "the books purchased shall relate to Spanish, Portuguese, and South American arts, crafts, literature and history only." Since the creation of this fund, the Library has acquired each year about 2,000 books published in the Hispanic world

within the ten years preceding the date of purchase. This limitation of the fund, stipulated by the donor, has served to encourage youthful authors just entering upon their careers, for often these purchases of their first works have served later to make their names known in this country. Through the operation of the Huntington Fund and the guidance of the Consultant in Hispanic Literature, Dr. David Rubio of the Catholic University of America, and his predecessor, the Library has for the last ten years been performing a cultural undertaking of real importance.

The Hispanic Room

To broaden this activity, to provide more adequately the elements for the study and appreciation of Hispanic culture, both of the mother countries, Spain and Portugal, and of Hispanic America, the Hispanic Foundation has been created. An anonymous friend generously provided funds for its suitable housing within the building of the Library of Congress. The distinguished architect, Paul Philippe Cret, designer of such monuments as the Pan American Union, the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Federal Reserve building in Washington, and the Pennsylvania Museum of the Fine Arts at Philadelphia, was commissioned to create a setting of Hispanic origin which should tend to withdraw the reader from the present to the past ages of Spanish and Portuguese culture.

Indeed, that is precisely the impression that the visitor has on entering the rooms of the Hispanic Foundation. In an atmosphere of cloistered quiet and serenity he beholds an interior whose details carry out faithfully the style of the *Siglo de Oro*, the sixteenth and seventeenth century taste of Spain and Portugal. First, one enters a vaulted vestibule of ample proportions lighted by a splendid silver chandelier

which is an original example of the *mudéjar* style of Toledo. In this room, against a background of armorial tapestries and rich furniture, special exhibitions are held. Rare maps, important documents and autographs, early printed books and pamphlets are arranged there in special displays to commemorate the anniversary of some event of great importance, such as the present exhibition marking the quater-centenary of Hernando de Soto's expedition from Cuba which culminated in the discovery of the Mississippi River.

Later in the year an exhibition will open at the Library of Congress under the auspices of the Hispanic Foundation which will commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of the printing of the first book in the Americas, an event which occurred in Mexico in 1539. This exhibition will trace the history of Mexican printing down to the present day, showing the earliest examples that the Library possesses and the most significant books from the standpoint of beautiful type and binding, and first and rare editions of works of outstanding social, historical, and literary value in the four subsequent centuries. Newspapers, literary periodicals, and journals of all sorts will be represented, as well as political broadsides and caricatures. Following this exhibition another devoted to Portuguese printing in Portugal and its colonies will coincide with the international celebration of the 800th anniversary of Portuguese independence.

From the vestibule the visitor enters the main reading room, a gallery some 130 feet in length. A lofty frieze around both rooms records the names of great historic and literary figures of the different Hispanic countries. There Cervantes stands beside Camões, Magellan beside Columbus. Loyola, El Cid, Lope de Vega, Calderón and Bolívar are also there. In Latin

American letters such great figures as Gonçalves Dias, Bello, M. A. Caro, Sarmiento, Icazbalceta, Ricardo Palma, Rodó, Medina, Montalvo, Heredia and Darío are represented. Immediately adjacent to this room are some 100,000 Hispanic volumes which can be consulted there and in the wood-panelled alcoves about it, in an atmosphere of beauty such as a seventeenth century monastic library might originally have presented. About the lower walls runs a dado of soft blue tiles from Puebla in Mexico; there are curtains of golden brocade at the windows and about the alcoves and balconies, which are of fine wrought iron. Delicately colored leather chairs complement the silvery tonality of the woodwork. A marble tablet which commemorates this splendid gift completes the room, standing between two doors of Spanish design which lead to the administrative offices.

Adjacent to the Hispanic Foundation, a reference room is being arranged, where general works of reference, dictionaries, and current Hispanic periodicals and newspapers will be available for consultation by the general public. Individual studies are here available for mature scholars pursuing special researches. Already the Foundation has been host to three specialists from Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, respectively, and we hope that such visits will, in the future, be made with increasing frequency.

On July 1, the Foundation was opened to readers and a modest staff was organized for administrative purposes. Dr. David Rubio, who has been the Consultant in Hispanic Literature since 1931, was appointed Curator of the Hispanic Collection. Dr. Lewis Hanke of Harvard University was designated as Director of the Hispanic Foundation. Dr. Robert C. Smith of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Illinois subsequently joined the staff as Assistant Director.



THE HISPANIC ROOM

At the right is the vestibule, ornamented by a rich velvet hanging. The handsome silver chandelier is an original example of the *mudéjar* style of Toledo. Around the walls runs a dado of tiles from Puebla in Mexico.

The resources of the collections

Located in Washington, which has become the diplomatic center for the Spanish-speaking world, the Hispanic Foundation is constantly in touch with the leading personalities in the scholarly and political worlds of Latin America, Spain and Portugal, both in their own countries and when they visit the capital of the United States. The Foundation possesses already a goodly working collection for Hispanic studies which is supplemented by certain rarities within the field which are housed in the various special divisions of the Library. For example, the Rare Book Room possesses many Hispanic items of

real importance. There is a copy of one of the earliest books known to have been printed in Mexico City by Juan Pablos, a Christian Doctrine for the first bishop, Fray Juan de Zumárraga, printed in 1544, and some fifteen other sixteenth century Mexican items, including the rare book on navigation, the first of its kind in the New World, written by Diego García de Palacio and published by Pedro Ocharte in Mexico in 1587. A copy of what is probably the first book printed in South America, a catechism published in Spanish and in two Indian dialects by Antonio Ricardo in Lima in 1585, is also kept here. Among its notable collection of pam-

phlets relating to the Dutch West Indies Company in the New World, there is a mysterious *Brasilsche gelt-sack* of 1647 which may be the first printing in Brazil. There is also the extensive Henry Harrisse bequest containing the interleaved and profusely annotated copies of the writings of that eminent American bibliophile on the Columbus period. Finally, the John Boyd Thacher Collection of autographs contains signed letters of Ferdinand and Isabella, Charles V, the Empress Isabella, and other Spanish sovereigns. It also includes nine Spanish incunabula and an incunabulum from Portugal, as well as the second book printed in Spain, a Latin Sallust published in Valencia in 1475, a Spanish edition of Seneca's Proverbs, which came from the press of Antonio de Centenera at Zamora in 1482, a folio volume of the *Cura de la piedra . . . y cólica rrenal*, by Julián Gutiérrez, a rare work on the diseases of the bladder, printed by Peter Hagembach of Toledo in 1498, and *Los doze trabajos de ercules* by Enrique de Villena de Aragón, from the first press of Juan de Burgos, 1499.

The Division of Manuscripts contains its own Hispanic treasures. Outstanding are two early sixteenth century manuscripts—the Columbus Codex, a book of privileges granted to him, written down at Sevilla with an authentic and contemporary transcript sent to Ferdinand and Isabella of the celebrated Bull *Dudum Quidem* of Alexander VI (26 Sept., 1493), and the so-called Sneyd Codex, a part of the John Boyd Thacher Collection, which is the first Venetian report on the discoveries of Columbus and the Portuguese navigations to India. There is a 1547 Mexican treatise on the native languages, besides a Cortés letter of five years previous, written to Charles V, advising that the Indians of Mexico be put under the protection of the Crown.

In 1929 a valuable collection of Hispanic materials, comprising a mass of early manuscripts relating to the first two centuries of Spanish American history, was presented to the Library by Mr. Edward S. Harkness of New York. The distinguished historian J. Franklin Jameson has described the collection in the following terms:

The Mexican papers, the earliest of which is dated in 1525, only five years after Mexico was won for Spain on the plain of Otumba, have a certain degree of unity in that most of them are connected to some extent with the house of Cortés, many of the documents having arisen from the state trial of Martín Cortés, son of the conquistador. The Peruvian documents are more miscellaneous; in fact, extraordinarily varied in character. There are few aspects of the early history and life of Spanish Peru which are not illuminated in one or another of these thousand and odd documents, extending in date from 1531 to 1651 (with one additional document of 1740). Aside from a certain number of *cédulas* of Charles V and Philip II, they originated in Peru. Most of them are originals, preserved by notaries, while notarial copies were sent to Spain. They come from persons of all sorts, from the Pizarros and Almagros, the viceroys and bishops, down to secretaries and merchants, pilots and sailors, schoolmasters and widows. They include decrees and proclamations of viceroys, orders and instructions of officers to subordinates, contracts and agreements, commercial accounts and letters, minutes of municipalities, manumissions, and many other varieties of documents. . . .

A few specific instances may illustrate the richness of this collection. For example, besides the long series of documents of the Pizarros and Almagros which show the processes of the conquest of Peru from 1531 on, there is the claim put forward by Diego Almagro the younger on account of the killing of his father. There is the imposing tailor's bill of Hernando de Soto. There is the long protest (1554) of some sixty of the chief notables among the conquerors against the new ordinance restricting personal services from the Indians which had been promulgated by Charles V, under the influence of Bishop Las Casas. There are the record books of two Andean frontier communities, begun in 1538 and 1539 respectively. There are provisions regarding protection against the "Lutheran corsairs" of Francis Drake and the services of Indian runners to give warn-

Ala Universidad, & muy mag^{re} señores
Lima =

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Sumagetas con el deseo que tiene de hacer mercedes a los reynos y delacientar
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a las muy mag^{re} personas de v. mdo. de los reynos y de abril 15
de 1577

Algunos en el nombre
de Francisco de Toledo

ANNOUNCEMENT BY VICEROY FRANCISCO DE TOLEDO THAT THE
KING HAS ENDOWED THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN MARCOS WITH AN
ANNUAL INCOME OF 13,000 PESOS TO PAY THE SALARIES OF
SEVENTEEN PROFESSORS. DATED APRIL 15, 1577.

[illegible]

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CONTRACT BETWEEN FRANCISCO PIZARRO AND HERNÁN SÁNCHEZ DE PINEDA UNDER WHICH THE LATTER WAS TO ACT AS MAYORDOMO IN THE MINES OF CALLAO, DATED JULY 17, 1535. THE FLOURISH IS THE RUBRIC OF PIZARRO, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO WRITE HIS NAME.

ings of his approach. There are announcements of royal endowments of the University of San Marcos at Lima and of provision for a chair of Indian languages, with injunction that priests and missionaries must learn the language of their flocks. In short, all the round of human life in old Peru finds illustration in this collection.

In 1914 the Library of Congress began a program of copying manuscripts in Spanish archives and libraries relating to the history of the United States, and more particularly to the former Spanish possessions within our borders. Five years later similar work was undertaken in Mexico. Under a substantial Rockefeller grant the work was considerably broadened, and the practice of making transcripts was abandoned, in favor of photostats or photofilm enlargements. As a result, the Division of Manuscripts now possesses a collection of hundreds of thousands of pages copied from the papers in the *Archivo General de Indias*, at Seville, the *Archivo General de Simancas*, the *Archivo Histórico Nacional*, and the *Ministerio de Estado*, at Madrid. From the *Archivo General y Público de la Nación* and the *Archivo General de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores* of Mexico City have come many thousands more. In this present year another collection of material containing the correspondence of the Argentine Foreign Office with that nation's diplomatic missions in this country, coming from the *Archivo General de la Nación*, in Buenos Aires, has been added, in addition to a gift from the Carnegie Institution of Washington of manuscripts in Mexican and Spanish archives and libraries relating to the Yucatan region in the sixteenth century. Finally copies are now being made of a private collection of photographs of papers in the old *Archivo General del Hospital de Jesús*, in Mexico City, dealing with Indian labor in Mexico in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and early eighteenth centuries. The total deposit constitutes an

exceptionally rich field for research in various aspects of Hispanic culture.

Finally, there is a special collection of Portuguese manuscripts. It is notable for the richness of its material on the Military Orders and on Sebastianism, that mystic cult that obstinately denied the death of Dom Sebastião on the battle field of Al Kasr al Kebir, maintaining that he still lived and would eventually return to restore the past greatness of his country.

In the Division of Maps is preserved one of the monuments of Hispanic cartography—the manuscript Atlas of the World, completed by the royal Portuguese mapmaker, João Teixeira, in 1630. It contains secret maps of the Americas and the Indies. There are also rare portulan charts of the coasts of Central and South America, cartographic manuscripts from the Royal School of Navigation at Cadiz (375 manuscript maps and charts, 1712–1824), depicting various portions of Hispanic America and the former Spanish possessions in this country, Vopel's manuscript 4-inch globe published in 1688, and one of the so-called buccaneer's atlases, made about 1690, showing the coast of western South America. Another important nucleus for Hispanic studies is the Woodbury Lowery Collection of over 300 maps relating to the former Spanish possessions in this country.

Among the more isolated and relatively unknown special collections of the Library of Congress are the Ladino books in the Division of Semitic and Oriental Literature. This material, written in the Judaeo-Spanish vernacular of the Sephardic Jews who were expelled from Spain in the fifteenth century and printed in the Rashi or Rabbinic Hebrew characters, is partly composed of Bible translations and liturgical and rabbinical works, among which are some early editions. For the most part, however, the collection consists of modern

belles-lettres. The Library is eager to add to its books in this field, and is already receiving a current weekly periodical, *La Vara*, published in New York City.

The Division of Orientalia, the largest deposit of Sino-Japanese material outside the Orient, is rich in books printed in Chinese by Portuguese missionaries at Macao and other cities of the Orient. The Library consultants in Islamic and Indic studies stand ready to assist the researches of scholars in the Oriental aspects of Hispanic culture.

The Division of Documents maintains a system of exchange of government publications with all the Hispanic nations. An attempt has been made to obtain complete sets of all recent government gazettes, debates of parliamentary bodies, *memorias*, bulletins, and special publications of government departments and academies and deliberations of provincial assemblies from the nations of Latin America. The resulting collection is probably unrivalled in this country, as are also the files of early government gazettes from Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and elsewhere in Latin America.

The Law Library, another of the separate divisions of the Library of Congress, has made a special effort to secure a complete collection of outstanding books and legal journals pertaining to Hispanic culture. Inasmuch as Hispanic scholars have earnestly devoted themselves to the law since the time of Saint Isidore, in the eighth century, this task is a considerable one. The Law Librarian, however, is particularly interested in this field and, with the aid of a special fund available for the purchase of legal materials, has already been able to make the Law Library one of the significant centers for the study of Hispanic law.

Among the outstanding items is the first law book published in the Americas, com-

plied by a Spanish official engaged in administering Spain's vast empire: the famous *Cedulario* of Vasco de Puga, which appeared in Mexico in 1563 as one more of the notable products of the typographical skill of Pedro Ocharte.

Many editions of the fundamental Spanish law code, the *Siete Partidas*, are also found in the Law Library, including the first 1555 edition of the gloss of Gregorio López.

A collection of notable materials usually leads to publication and in the past the Law Library has issued guides to Spanish law as well as to the law of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. The Law Librarian has recently published a solid volume on *The Background of Hispanic American Law* and has now in preparation a guide to Mexican Law. It is expected that other legal publications will result as scholars continue to tap this rich source for the study of Hispanic law.

Finally, the Division of Music possesses a notable corpus of early printed material on Spanish and Portuguese music, original scores by the Latin American composers Jacopo Fischer and Francisco Casa Bona, and manuscript transcriptions of Manuel de Falla's music by Miguel Llobet. The Division has also a rapidly growing collection of phonograph records of Latin American folk music and a fine auditorium in which, through the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge and Gertrude Clarke Whittall Foundations, concerts are held regularly. In certain of these concerts the Library's Stradivari instruments are used. Special attention is often paid in these concerts to the masterpieces of Hispanic music.

The aims of the Foundation

The Hispanic Foundation has as its principal function the creation of an unsurpassed collection of published material

pertaining to Spain, Portugal and the countries of Latin America. In this task we shall call for the advice of specialists within the Library and in the learned societies, libraries and universities throughout this country and the Hispanic lands. The Foundation, in spite of its constant purchases of books and periodicals from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal, cannot hope, however, to have a complete record of all contemporary publications, without the active assistance of the authors themselves. Many important articles and monographs are submerged in magazines and newspapers little known to us, or are published in widely dispersed centers. The Foundation has, therefore, adopted the policy of requesting writers to send copies of their works to the Library of Congress, where they become integral parts of the Hispanic Foundation. A box will be provided for each author wherein his separate articles in newspapers and periodicals will be kept. With the friendly aid of all authors who concern themselves with Hispanic studies, it is expected that this collection of scattered contributions will provide a unique and increasingly valuable corpus of material.

Already the response has been generous and the Foundation is daily receiving many important publications which otherwise might not have been available. Relations are being established with the lesser known societies and institutions of research within Latin America, Spain, and Portugal. Especially eager is the Foundation to interest writers and academicians in Portugal and throughout the Portuguese colonies and to have them send their works, not only because the Hispanic Foundation is determined that the Lusitanian world shall be equal in importance with the Spanish, within its sphere of activity, but also because the Portuguese collections of the Library of Congress are already well

developed. In 1927 a notable group of Portuguese books, numbering over 1,500 volumes, was purchased from a private collector. The collection is particularly rich in the Portuguese chronicles of the Kings and the Religious Orders. There is a complete set of pamphlets relating to the expulsion of the Jesuits under the Marquez de Pombal. There is also important and rare material on Portuguese law, the administration of towns and provinces, the constitution, diplomatic relations, and art and archaeology.

Mention should also be made of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, which is edited at the Hispanic Foundation. It is an annual publication listing, with critical and informative notes, the outstanding books and articles relating to Latin America which have appeared throughout the world in the course of each year. The *Handbook*, of which the fourth yearly number is about to be published, enjoys the active collaboration of outstanding specialists who prepare sections on the various aspects of Latin American culture in both the humanities and the social sciences, such as anthropology, art, economics, history, literature and law.

Two special aims that the Foundation cherishes are the creation of a comprehensive Hispanic catalogue and the building up of an extensive photographic archive of Hispanic culture. The first of these, the catalogue, will require many years to prepare, but when completed will constitute an essential tool for scholarly work in this field. It will analyze the whole Hispanic collection of the Library of Congress. The catalogue will consist of two sections separately installed. The first will be an author index catalogue, listing all the works of a given author followed by the biographical and critical works pertaining to him. The problem of analyticals will be attacked and when

completed, the catalogue will furnish a record of all articles by or pertaining to a given writer which may have appeared in commemorative volumes, literary and historical reviews and other types of composite publications. The second unit will be a complete subject index catalogue in which all that has been written on a given subject, including analyticals, will be grouped together, as for example, the arts in Minas Gerais, *Gaúcho* literature, or silver production in Peru. The value of this Hispanic catalogue to scholars who come to visit the Library can scarcely be overestimated. It will show at a glance what the Foundation possesses in relation to the rest of the Library of Congress. It will facilitate immeasurably the work of Hispanic scholars and should serve, together with the completeness of the collections, to attract them to the Foundation. It is hoped that the other institutions will avail themselves as time goes on of this thorough catalogue by means of the purchase of duplicate cards.

The second long range objective of the Foundation, the photographic archive, will be expanded to include all such aspects of Hispanic culture as folk art, furniture, costume, religious customs and, in the case of Cuba and Brazil, the diversified crafts of the negro. But principally it would comprehend the fine arts in Spain, Portugal and Latin America. Special emphasis would be placed on the gathering of photographs from the two latter regions, for little attention has as yet been paid to them by art historians. The archive of Hispanic photographs would serve as a basic source of reference for scholarly investigation and research in a field in which at the present they are lamentably wanting, but which is among the richest of artistic provinces.

The scope of the undertaking would be so inclusive as to embrace all periods, from the earliest productions through the Baroque or colonial epochs down to the present day. In the case of Latin America, special attention would be paid to the artistic connections with the mother countries and an effort would be made to establish the indigenous influence in architecture, sculpture and painting.

As its work develops the Foundation hopes to build up its collection so as to draw here specialists in many fields of Hispanic research. This is particularly true of sociology, economics and political science. We are not merely a linguistic, literary, or even historical foundation, but rather an active center for the study of every branch of the culture of Spain, Portugal and Latin America. The Foundation welcomes the visits and queries of mature scholars bent on serious and worthwhile investigations, and its resources are always at their disposal. It will seek to put them in touch with other workers elsewhere in the same or related fields. If their stay at the Library is limited, special arrangements can be made in advance to have the necessary books awaiting their arrival. It is hoped that visitors from Hispanic lands will come with increasing frequency, for only by such contacts can the Foundation continue to fulfill its mission.

The Hispanic Foundation in the Library of Congress is still a very youthful organization. Its purpose is just beginning to be known throughout the Americas. With the proper support from the people of this country and those of the Hispanic world, with their sympathy and participation in its work, it should come to be one of the principal forces for the preservation and dissemination of Hispanic culture.

